GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2738
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2006
WATER HARVESTING PROJECTS
Jagannath Dr. M.;Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai;Rathod Shri Harisingh Nasaru;Singh Shri Sugrib

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the quantum of rain water being harvested and utilised for different purposes in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has issued directions to the State Governments to make it mandatory for urban dwelling units in the States to harvest roof-top rain water;

(d) if so, whether the Government have assessed the impact of these directions to the States;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the State Governments have requested the Government for additional financial assistance for rain water harvesting during the current financial year; and

(g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the financial assistance provided to the State Governments therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF.SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ)

(a)&(b) Rain water is harvested through creating surface storages and recharge to ground water by various artificial recharge structures. The percentage of rainfall recharging ground water varies from State to State depending upon the local hydrogeological conditions. The rain water harvested in each State through artificial recharge structures cannot be quantified. The recharge to ground water by various artificial recharge structures augments the ground water storage. It is not possible to separate the naturally recharged and artificially recharged ground water to assess it`s utilization.

(c) to (e) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for the purposes of regulation and control of ground water development and management has advised the Union Ministry of Urban Development and State Governments to make it mandatory to adopt roof top rain water harvesting in urban areas. Accordingly, the Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation, Government of India have amended Building Bye-laws, 1983, making provision for water harvesting through storing of water run-off including rain water in all new buildings on plots of 100 square meters and above in Delhi mandatory. Similarly, State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan and Kerala have made roof top rain water harvesting mandatory in specified cases.

The CGWA has recently issued directions to the State/UT Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Daman & Diu and Pondicherry to take up all measures to adopt artificial recharge to ground water/ promote rain water harvesting in all the Over-exploited and Critical areas falling under their jurisdiction and ensure inclusion of roof top rain water harvesting in the building bye-laws. Further, the CGWA has also issued directions to Group Housing Societies, Institutes, Hotels, Industries, Farm Houses, etc., in the notified areas of Delhi, Faridabad, Gurgaon and Ghaziabad and other areas of NCT Delhi where ground water table is below 8 meters from ground surface, to adopt rain water harvesting system.

(f)&(g) Department of Drinking Water Supply under the Ministry of Rural Development provides financial and technical assistance to States through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), for supply of drinking water as per the stipulated norms. For taking up projects on sustainability of drinking water sources, 5% of ARWSP funds released to the States have been specifically earmarked, which include rain water harvesting structures.

During the current financial year 2006-07, no request has been received in the CGWB / Ministry of Water Resources from the States/UT Governments for financial assistance for rain water harvesting.